ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

as to the

Sanitary condition of the Urban District of Bungay

for the year 19 19.

To the Chairman & Members of the

Urban District Council of Bungay.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my report for the year 19 19. The Town of Bungay stands upon an accumulation of river gravels, which juts out into the marsh lands of the river Waveney, in the shape of a peninsula. The Town occupied the neck and shoulders of the peninsula, with Outney Common spreading away to the North to where the Waveney circles up to the foot of the Bath Hills, which here form its Northern Bank. The Valley which spreads out to the East and West is frequently flooded after heavy rains. The Town is ancient and the ground upon which it stands has been occupied for centuries by a fairly dense population. The Chaucer Press Printing Works gives employment to a large number of hands, otherwise the trade and industries of the Town are mainly connected with, and supported by agriculture.

The population of Bungay for the year 19 19 is estimated at 3180 persons.

THE BIRTHS registered in 19 19 were :- Males 36, Females 35. Total 71. Two more than last year, but the highest birth rate recorded since 19 16.

Six of the births recorded were of illegitimate children, two being Males and four females.

THE DEATHS registered in 1919 were: Males 25, Females 28 Total 53. The Lowest figure for the last five years at least. None of the deaths occurred outside the district, whilst, of the remainder 20 were over 70 years of age, one person being 102 years of age.

INFANT MORTALITY. 5 deaths occurred in Infants under one year of age, 2 being males and 3 females. The cause in three out of the five deaths being due to congenital malformation, or premature birth. Two of the female children were illegitimate. It is satisfactory to note that none of the deaths was due to any of the Lymotic Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. The following cases were notified during the year :-

Measles	189	
Scarlet Fever	21	
Varicella or Chicken Pox	8	
Diphtheria	7	
Erysipelas	4	
Pneumonia	4	(including 1 Influenza & Pneumonia)
Small Pox	3	
Puerperal Fever	1	
Total	237	

Only one case of Influenza was notified during the year.

The above is the largest list ever recorded. This was due to an epidemic of measles, which swelled the list considerably &, to a much smaller extent, to a minor epidemic of scarlet fever. It must not be forgotten, however, that measles was not a notifiable disease prior to the latter part of 1915 & that pneumonia was only added to the list last year. The epidemic of measles was due partly to ignorance and partly to carelessness on the part of many parents, allowing their children to play with others in the

THE DEATHS registered in 1919 were: Males 25, Females 28
Total 53. The lowest figure for the last five years at least.
None of the deaths occurred outside the district, whilst of the
remainder 20 were over 70 years of age, one person being 102
years of age.

INFANT MORTALITY. 5 deaths occurred in Infants under one year
of age, 2 being males and 3 females. The cause in three out
of the five deaths being due to congenital malformation, or
premature birth. Two of the female children were illegitimate
It is satisfactory to note that none of the deaths was due to
any of the Lymotic Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. The following cases were notified during
the year :-

	1919
Measles	
Scarlet Fever	21
Varicella or Chicken Pox	8
Diphtheria	7
Erysipelas	4
Pneumonia	4 (Including 1 Influenza & Pneumonia)
Small Pox	3
Puerperal Fever	1
Total	257

Only one case of Influenza was notified during the year.
The above is the largest list ever recorded. This was due to a
epidemic of measles, which swelled the list considerably &, to a
much smaller extent, to a minor epidemic of scarlet fever. It
must not be forgotten, however, that measles was not a notifiable
disease prior to the latter part of 1915 & that pneumonia was only
added to the list last year. The epidemic of measles was due
partly to ignorance and partly to carelessness on the part of
many parents, allowing their children to play with others in the

streets and elsewhere, and even to go to school whilst actually suffering from the disease. It appears impossible to stop that state of affairs, no matter what instructions Doctors may give, as many parents persist in considering measles a trivial complaint, or as they put in -"only measles".

SMALL POX Though three were notified there were actually only two cases in Bungay. The first case was brought into the district by a woman, who contracted it whilst cleaning the house of a person in another district who was suffering from small pox, though at the time it was not known that the person whose house she was cleaning was suffering from the disease. The second case was a very mild one, being considerably modified owing to the man having been re-vaccinated a few months previously. The third case was notified on suspicion, but turned out not to be Small Pox. Every case was at once removed to the Isolation Hospital at Ipswich and the inmates of each house were rigorously isolated and not allowed outside until the period of quarantine had expired, when the house, bedding, clothing etc was disinfected, and what could not be properly disinfected, e.g. mattresses, were burned. Notices were posted in the district advising all those people who had not been vaccinated, or re-vaccinated within the previous three years to be vaccinated and those to whom it applied responded freely.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Four cases were notified during the year and there was one death from the disease.

Cancer. There were five deaths from this disease during the year.

The Water Supply of the Town is dependent on our public wells, as well as numerous private ones. The nature of the water in the Town is, on the whole, bad, and should not be used for drinking purposes without previous boiling. A scheme for a Public Water Supply should be adopted & put in hand as speedily

as possible.

The Drains are kept in good working order and may be regarded as fairly satisfactory under the present system of dealing with the night soil. There are 45 to 50 houses in the town with their own water-closets. The earth closets are provided with tubs by the Sanitary Authority, which empties them weekly and cleanses them with disinfectant. A similar periodical removal of house refuse by the Sanitary Authority is desirable.
As soon as the Council can see their way to adopting one, a scheme for main drainage should be considered.

Housing Accomodation. There is a great dearth of houses and a great necessity for new houses for the working class and until the Council build houses no actual progress can be made. Two sites have been obtained by the Council, one on the Beccles Road and one on the Flixton Road, and loans for the purchase of them have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.
Cowsheds & dairies have been periodically inspected. There are 15 registered cowkeepers in the town and on an average about 140 cows kept. The great majority were found to be clean and well kept, but many of the sheds are old and dilapidated and the dairies small & inconvenient.
The appended report by the Sanitary Inspector gives further information

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Busteed L. R. C. P., L. R. C. S.,
L. S. A (London)

Medical Officer of Health.

as possible.

The Drains are kept in good working order and may be regarded as fairly satisfactory under the present system of dealing with the night soil. There are 45 to 50 houses in the town with their own water-closets. The earth closets are provided with tubs by the Sanitary Authority, which empties them weekly and cleanses them with disinfectant. A daily periodical removal of houses refuse by the Sanitary Authority is desirable.

As soon as the Council can see their way to adopting one, a scheme for main drainage should be considered.

Housing Accommodation. There is a great dearth of houses and a great necessity for new houses for the working class and until the Council build houses no actual progress can be made. The sites have been obtained by the Council, one on the Beccles Road and one on the Hilsdon Road, and loans for the purchase of them have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

Unhealthy districts have been periodically inspected. There are 15 registered workshops in the town and on an average about 140 are kept. The great majority were found to be clean and well kept, but many of the sheds are old and dilapidated and the districts small & inconvenient.

The appended report by the Sanitary Inspector gives further information

I am, Gentlemen,

Your faithful

J. E. Burgess I. P. C. P., I. R. C. S.,
L. S. A (London)

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year ending 31st December 1919

BUNGAY URBAN DISTRICT

Gentlemen,

I beg to report for the year ending 31st Dec. 1919 the following sanitary work during that period having been performed :-

of the various complaints made to me during the year some were of minor account and others anonymous, but all of which have had my attention, and the nuisances complained of abated without it being necessary to issue notices in the usual way. Various premises, schools slaughter houses, bakehouses and workshops etc. have been inspected at different periods, as also have 15 cowsheds and dairies these were found with but few exceptions to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

There has been 4 registrations under the Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops orders during the year

The number of house disinfected after Infectious diseases, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health is 31 and total rooms disinfected 42 necessitating 38 visits, and in 3cases where small pox occurred bedding and other articles were destroyed by burning.

Notice was served and complied with in the conversion of two privy pits into pail system closets.

Two other privy pits were done away with and the pail system adopted.

The removal of the night soil has been carried out satisfactoril with but few complaints, some against the workmen and others against the householders. The number of receptacles removed, washed and disinfected being 47064. Two new privies have been built.

The open sewers have all been cleansed and

good improvement made to the one by the "Wolds" by bottomfying same and drains have been cleared of blockages in six cases.

Two houses have been completed during the year but no new houses have been erected.

Under the destruction of rats orders 1644 rat tails have been brought in during the year and paid for amounting to £15. 14 3.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. EARL
Inspector